The Unimpeachment- "progress" report: After this long separateion, in time and what was on the mind. despite many interruptions today I found time to reread the last chapter I wrote before WW IV and the two Ray trips wrenched me away. It is the penultimate chapter of the book proper. Carrying the figure of "The Smoking Gun" farthur I'd titled it "The Fatal Shot" and built it around the June 23 tapes. While quoting them directly - and with self-ridicule aiding and abetting the intended ridicule and self-exposure - it carries out the theme that there really is nothing new except exact quotes. That all that did him in is what everyone should have known and did ignore, but in his own words. Having referred to The Purloined Letter and Through the Looking Glass for insight and doctrine, I have decided the title the last chapter "The Year of Our Ford." Orwell belongs, too! In it I plan to combine the resignation and the memorable words marking it (thank you!) with a few references to Ford from the WWs, esp. IV and a few goadlines telling the story of this year of our Ford..It hasn't taken full form but I'll sleep on it and try to start it before my end run abounf the Post's national desk is scheduled to be here,about 10. It I cna just get a start and organize it inx my mind as I do, I'll feel good because the rest of the next three days are all full...There's great stuff in those "fatal shot" tapes. Hope I gave them their full due...Sure would like to have a draft completed before I have to get back on Ray more than part of each day...It is terrible to have to rush but there is a feeling of relief just getting it on paper, whether or not it is as comprehensible as it should be. Which is to say screwed on right....Unless you write about it you can't fully appreciate how sicksicksick it all is. Thinking falls short. ...I also have the belief that nothing really new has come out in the trial. Specifics that add no new information only. ...Now that Silbert has been renominated, if the man of the year renominates him next year I amy ask to testify. ...Because I didn't see to it the freebees to the Congress on FOI were not arranged for so we'll probably not now give them out...Terrible to have to rush a book and then abandon it!...When last I spoke to Waldron his copy had not arrived. I'd been depending on him and Post, which cover the two cities where a wholesaler stocks. (In DC wholesaler's drivers on strike.)...I have what I hope will be an interesting illumination of all society's institutions in mind for the period of editing. (Withiut help, no retyping now possible until mid-April!) I believe it is important to undertand that secrets are rare, very few. I know of nothing essential to add to what I'd written before the beginning of the conspiracy trial. I think I'll ~~[illegible]~~ footnote to these stories as a man of showing what I've been saying, that nobody really intended telling the whole story. The new Hunt-Bittman stuff is fine on this. The central purpose in this approach is to inform the young. if not to teach them tl look at least to tell them and show them that it can pay off...Your copy WWIV in mail. Best, HW 11/19/74